All their thoughts turn on things calculated to excite emotion; and feeling, when they ſhould reaſon, their conduct is unſtable, and their opinions are wavering—not the wavering produced by deliberation or progreſſive views, but by contradictory emotions. By fits and ſtarts they are warm in many purſuits; yet this warmth, never concentrated into perſeverance, ſoon exhauſts itſelf; exhaled by its own heat, or meeting with ſome other fleeting paſſion, to which reaſon has never given any ſpecific gravity, neutrality enſues. Miſerable, indeed, muſt be that being whoſe cultivation of mind has only tended to inflame its paſſions! A diſtinction ſhould be made between inflaming and ſtrengthening them. The paſſions thus pampered, whilſt the judgment is left unformed, what can be expected to enſue?—Undoubtedly, a mixture of madneſs and folly!

This obſervation ſhould not be confined to the *fair* ſex; however, at preſent, I only mean to apply it to them.

Novels, muſic, poetry, and gallantry, all tend to make women the creatures of ſenſation, and their character is thus formed during the time they are acquiring accompliſhments, the only improvement they are excited,

cited, by their ſtation in ſociety, to acquire. This overſtretched ſenſibility naturally relaxes the other powers of the mind, and prevents intellect from attaining that ſovereignty which it ought to attain to render a rational creature uſeful to others, and content with its own ſtation: for the exerciſe of the underſtanding, as life advances, is the only method pointed out by nature to calm the paſſions.

Satiety has a very different effect, and I have often been forcibly ſtruck by an emphatical deſcription of damnation:—when the ſpirit is repreſented as continually hovering with abortive eagerneſs round the defiled body, unable to enjoy any thing without the organs of ſenſe. Yet, to their ſenſes, are women made ſlaves, becauſe it is by their ſenſibility that they obtain preſent power.

And will moraliſts pretend to aſſert, that this is the condition in which one half of the human race ſhould be encouraged to remain with liſtleſs inactivity and ſtupid acquieſcence? Kind inſtructors! what were we created for? To remain, it may be ſaid, innocent; they mean in a ſtate of childhood.—We might as well never have been born, unleſs it were ne-